Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SC/SC)	—25%
Physically Handicapped Persons (PH)	—5%
Paramilitary/Police/Government Personnel (PMP)	—8%
Defence Personnel (DC)	—8%
Freedom Fighters (FF)	—2%
Outstanding Sportspersons (OSP)	—2%
Open (O)	—50%

Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Also, 33% of the dealerships/distributorships in all the categories mentioned above are reserved for Women belonging to that category.

During the last 5 years, i.e. 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, Oil Companies have allotted 1137 retail outlet dealerships and 970 LPG distributorships all over the country.

Out of the above, 68 RO and 75 LPG distributorships were allotted in Madhya Pradesh. Further Oil Companies have advertised for selection of about 103 retail outlets dealerships and 309 LPG distributorships in Madhya Pradesh.

In respect of 1 retail outlet dealership and 2 LPG distributorships there was no response from the concerned category.

Improving Economic Position of the States

1659. DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the states having per capita income above national average and those below the national average during last ten years;

(b) the reasons for constantly low per capita income; and

(c) the steps taken to improve the economic position of these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS

(SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) A statement showing the relative position of per capita Net State Domestic Product (NSDP) of the states vis-a-vis the per capita Net National Product (NNP) for the last ten years (at 1980-81 prices) is anexed. [*see* Appendix 188, Annexure No. 44]

(b) and (c) There are certain regions in the country which are unable to benefit adequately from the over-all growth process. For the most part such regions reflect the inadequate integration of the local economies in the wider growth process due to historical reasons. Balanced regional development has always been an essential component of the Indian development strategy. Since not all parts of the country are equally well endowed to take advantage of growth opportunities, and since historical inequalities have not been eliminated, planned intervention is required. The Ninth Plan has taken steps to ensure improved opportunity for public and private investment by appropriate policies in favour of the weaker states and has selected specific of social and physical infrastructure, agriculture, information technology and water policy for which Special Action Plans have been evolved in order to provide actionable, time-bound targets with adequate resources.

Development of hilly regions

†1660. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central assistance for the development of hilly regions is provided for certain States only and what is the justified basis for not providing aid to other States;

(b) by when the Central assistance, as per the aid being provided to other State for the development of hilly regions will be made available to Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINIS-

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.